

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are currently pending in the present application, with claims 13-14 standing withdrawn pursuant to Election/Restriction Requirement.

The Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendment to claim 1 to place the claims in condition for allowance.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the helpful comments in the Response to Arguments section of the October 25, 2004 Final Office Action regarding the difference between handle pull sides extending “approximately parallel” to a horizontal plane and extending “parallel” to the horizontal.

As discussed in the July 6, 2004 Interview, the present invention’s handle pull arrangements provide an ergonomically desirable handle in which the handle swivel axis is tilted away from the vehicle’s vertical axis, and the upper and/or under sides of the handle pull extend parallel to a horizontal plane, resulting in a preferable “feel” to the handle operator. The Applicants noted that the Larabet reference teaches a handle in which the upper and/or lower sides of the handle pull extend in the *same* direction that the handle moves as it pivots (*i.e.*, the handle pull sides are perpendicular to the swiveling axis). Accordingly, the Applicants amended the claims with the objective of reciting that the present invention’s swiveling axis is *not* at right angles to the upper and/or lower sides of the handle pull, *i.e.*, that where the claim already recited that the swiveling axis was tilted from the vertical, the upper or lower sides of the handle extend “approximately parallel” to the horizontal. The Applicants included the term

“approximately” solely to ensure the claim would not be unduly narrowly read as requiring the handle pull sides to be *precisely* horizontal.

In view of the Examiner’s helpful comments, however, the Applicants wish to amend claim 1 to use language which achieves the original objective discussed in the Interview, that of reciting a handle pull with sides which do not extend in the same direction as the direction the handle pull moves when it swivels about the swiveling axis. The Applicants therefore are requesting entry of an amendment to specifically recite that the upper side or underneath side of the handle pull extends approximately parallel to a horizontal plane “such that an angle between the swiveling axis and the upper side or underneath side of the handle pull is not a right angle.” Because Larabet teaches only a door handle arrangement in which the swivel axis and the handle pull upper and/or lower surfaces are perpendicular to one another, Larabet does not teach or suggest the present invention’s handle pull which lifts upward and outward when pulled while presenting the operator’s hand with ergonomically-preferable horizontal upper or lower pull surfaces.

In view of the foregoing requested amendments and remarks, entry of the amendments and withdrawal of the pending § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-3 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending § 103(a) rejection, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-3.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #225.50556US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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